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CORRESPONDENTS ANALYSIS BY DAVID WILLIAMS MOGADISCIO

PORTUGAL AND AFRICA

INTRO: THE ATTITUDES OF THE NEW PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT TOWARD ITS TERRITORIES IN AFRICA HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MAJOR SUBJECTS AT THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY SUMMIT CONFERENCE TAKING PLACE IN THE SOMALI CAPITAL, MOGADISCIO. VOA CORRESPONDENT DAVID WILLIAMS CABLED THIS ANALYTICAL REPORT ON THE QUESTION FROM MOGADISCIO.

TEXT: PORTUGUESE POLICY TOWARD ITS AFRICAN TERRITORIES HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF PRACTICALLY EVERY SPEECH BY AFRICAN LEADERS AT THE OAU MINISTERIAL AND SUMMIT CONFERENCES. OUTGOING OAU CHAIRMAN, YAKUBU GOWON OF NIGERIA, REVEALED HE HAD RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT, ANTONIO DE SPINOLA, SAYING PORTUGAL WILL ACT IN STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ITS TERRITORIES. IT WAS REPORTED EARLIER THIS WEEK FROM LISBON THAT PRESIDENT SPINOLA HAD SET OUT THE TIMETABLE OF EVENTS IN AFRICAN TERRITORIES STARTING WITH CEASEFIRES, THEN ESTABLISHING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS FOLLOWED BY SELF-DETERMINATION. THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT HAD EARLIER ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO HOLD REFERENDA IN ITS TERRITORIES OF MOZAMBIQUE, ANGOLA, AND GUINEA-BISSAU WITHIN A YEAR.

BUT WHILE NEGOTIATION BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND LIBERATION MOVEMENTS HAVE BEEN WELCOMED AT THE OAU CONFERENCE, A CONSIDERABLE

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GULF BETWEEN AFRICA AND PORTUGAL STILL APPEARS EVIDENT. THE

OAU HAS BEFORE IT A RESOLUTION DRAFTED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WHICH SAYS THERE SHOULD BE NO CEASEFIRE IN THE TERRITORIES UNTIL LISBON MAKES AN UNEQUIVOCAL DECLARATION THAT IT WILL GRANT INDEPENDENCE. THE MOZAMBIQUE LIBERATION FRONT, FRELIMO, HAS DEMANDED THIS POINT AS WELL AS THE DIRECT TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT. SO THE LINES HAVE BEEN DRAWN WITH PORTUGAL CALLING FOR SELF-DETERMINATION AND A STEP BY STEP PROCESS TOWARD INDEPENDENCE WHILE FRELIMO WANTS INDEPENDENCE AT THE EARLIES POSSIBLE TIME AND FEELS A REFERENDUM IS NOT NECESSARY. THE ONLY THING FRELIMOLIS WILLING TO NEGOTIATE IS THE MECHANICS FOR THE TURNOVER OF POWER. THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA, HOWEVER, IS QUITE DIFFERENT BECAUSE UNLIKE MOZAMBIQUE WITH ONE STRONG LIBERATION GROUP, ANGOLA HAS THREE, THE F.N.L.A., THE M.P.L.A. AND UNITA. ONE OF THE MAIN CONCERNS OF THE OAU MEETINGS HAS BEEN TO BRING THESE THREE GROUPS TOGETHER. PART OF THE RESOLUTION ON PORTUGAL CALLS ON ALL LIBERATION GROUPS TO ADOPT A COORDINATED POLICY ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH PORTUGAL. MANY AFRICAN LEADERS HAVE ECHOED ETHIOPIAN EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE'S ADMONITION TO THE FREEDOM MOVEMENTS TO SEIZE THIS GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY THAT IS WITHIN THEIR GRASP. THEY MUST PROVE THEIR UNITY AT THE CONFERENCE TABLE, HE DECLARED, AS WELL AS IN THE BATTLEFIELDS.

BUT WHILE THERE ARE CERTAIN OBVIOUS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND AFRICA ON A TIMETABLE FOR INDEPENDENCE, THERE ARE ALSO SOME VERY POSITIVE SIGNS COMING OUT OF THE OAU. AFRICAN STATES ARE URGING NEGOTIATIONS TO CONTINUE. THE OAU MINISTERS HAVE ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT PORTUGAL'S FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE OAU SECRETARY GENERAL GET TOGETHER TO DISCUSS THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PORTUGAL AND ITS TERRITORIES. ITEM
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